

Bessie and Jane: A Close Reading

Directions: Carefully read the description of the visit between Jane and Bessie at the end of chapter 10 of *Jane Eyre*. Then answer the following questions.

1. How does Jane respond to seeing Bessie again after all these years?
2. How has Bessie's life changed?
3. What has happened to the Reed children?
4. What seems to trouble Mrs. Reed the most?
5. What does Bessie bluntly say to Jane? How does Jane react?
6. What qualities in Jane amaze Bessie?
7. What new information does Jane get about her own family?

What a Hypocrite!

Directions: Use the exercise to understand hypocrisy and to recognize Mr. Brocklehurst's hypocritical behavior.

1. What do the following situations have in common?
 - A history teacher always emphasizes the importance of acknowledging sources, but his own lectures are taken from Internet sources that he does not cite.
 - Melissa tells her little sister not to eat the last two cookies because their father will want them when he gets home from work. As soon as the little girl turns on the television, Melissa races out to the porch and eats the cookies.
 - The football coach always preaches the importance of fair play and good sportsmanship. At the annual golf tournament, the quarterback sees the coach move the ball to make his next shot easier.
2. What is a hypocrite?
3. Mrs. Gray always tells her children that she does not want them to smoke cigarettes; she emphasizes that smoking is dangerous to one's health and extremely expensive. She herself is a two-pack-a-day smoker. Is she a hypocrite?
4. What messages does Mr. Brocklehurst preach?
5. What does he demand of the students at Lowood?
6. Describe his wife and daughters.
7. Is Mr. Brocklehurst a hypocrite?